Reflections Ceremony Celebrates Student Creativity

by Christine Gordillo

The depth and diversity of Lakewood City Schools’ students’ creativity and imagination were celebrated and on display at the annual Lakewood PTA Council Reflections Ceremony, held Jan. 25 at Harding Middle School. One hundred twenty works from 116 artists from preschool through high school were honored. Of those 120 pieces of art, 28 were chosen to move on to the state PTA judging, with winners to be announced in late spring.

The ceremony offered the young artists a chance to be recognized and congratulated by the superintendent, Board of Education members and other city leaders. Guest speaker was Nicka Petruccio, an artist and member of the Lakewood Public Library’s children’s department staff.

The Reflections program offers students from schools with active PTA’s the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works in seven arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, visual arts and special artist. All entries must follow a chosen theme, which this year was “What is Your Story?”

continued on page 7

Diversity Potluck -
A Slam Dunk For Lakewood!

by Bernadette Elston

This year, Lakewood’s Community Relations Advisory Commission celebrated Lakewood’s diversity with its annual Diversity Potluck. The event was held at Lake- wood’s Women’s Pavilion in Lakewood Park. Oh, it was a fine time! We tasted, laughed, sipped, shared; we reminisced, dreamed, listened, and planned. This may not resonate for all, so let’s expand a bit.

We tasted foods from some of Lakewood’s most esteemed restaurants, sipped delicious teas and coffees, and shared delicious recipes with friends and neighbors whose dinners may look a little different than what some are accustomed to. The menu included cultural and exotic favorites such as fried chicken, a delicious Indian Pakora and tasty chutney, Tahiri rice (very tasty!), Pizza, Gyros with tzatziki sauce, and many, many more unforgettable dishes. There was far too much food, and everyone in attendance gained 5 lbs!

A special thanks to Mayor Mike Summers and Council Person Cindy Marx who both shared in the festivities. Council Person Marx shared Lakewood’s Human Rights Ordinance. This necessary and important document can be found at http://www.onelakewood.com. More thanks are extended to local restaurants whose generous food donations are deeply appreciated. These restaurants include: Barocco, India Garden, Thai Kitchen, Aladdin’s Eatery, Bylo Gyro, Tommy’s Pastries, The Root Café, Blackbird Bakery, Breadsmith, and Taco Tontos.

Please forgive our oversight if your donation was not mentioned. Special thanks also to Nahida Faustina for help with posters, and Jason Elston with wonderful ‘twisty balloons’ for the kids—and the kids at heart! In case you missed this year’s event, the potluck is always held the Thursday after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day.

The Community Relations Advisory Commission is “charged to advise, educate, and promote community relations. The mission of the Commission is to foster participation in the community; to encourage and promote respectful conversations and collaborative efforts among and between residents and city officials; and to promote equity, respect, and diversity within the city.” Participation continued on page 12

Remembering The Fallen: Officer Fahey

Officer David Fahey was struck and killed during a traffic stop on I-90 near Lakewood on January 24, 2017. Hundreds turned out to honor the fallen Cleveland Police Officer. Pictured above, the heart-carrying Officer Fahey pulls to stop, and those in attendance all stood in silence.
Decades of historical dreams came crashing to an end Monday morning as the wrecking ball arrived at the historic Westwood/Hilliard Theater, home to Midnight Movies, X-Rated Movies, and the occasional family movie. Built in the Vaudville days, the recent years were not kind to the theater or the theater owner. Sadly it was way past saving. See the photos inside and out, online at the Lakewood Observer.
Representative Antonio Again To Serve As Top Democrat On House Health Committee

by Nickie Antonio

As your State Representative, it is an honor to serve house District 13, consider the many views and interests of our diverse and vibrant community and bring your voice to the Statehouse in Columbus. We know that the laws made in Columbus have a direct impact on our lives in Lakewood. To help make the lawmaking process more efficient and thorough, pieces of legislation, once introduced and then assigned to issue-specific committees, are vetted through committee hearings where testimony and expert opinion on each bill are presented.

For the 132nd General Assembly, I have been chosen to serve on the following five committees:
- House Finance Committee: The Finance Committee hears bills related to the state’s finances, including the two-year state operating budget. Committee hearings for the state budget have already begun, and will end with the adoption of the budget by June 30, 2017.
- House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education: This committee is a smaller group within the larger Finance Committee that will look at how our state funds public institutions of higher education.
- House Health Committee: I am honored to be selected as the highest-ranking Democrat on this committee, which reviews legislation related to health and healthcare policy.
- Rules and Reference: Comprised of the House’s leadership team, this committee assigns bills to a committee.
- Joint Legislative Ethics Committee: The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) is the bipartisan ethics body that advises Ohio’s legislative branch of government on matters concerning ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure.

It is an honor to continue to provide policy leadership in the Ohio House and I look forward to working with my fellow colleagues to serve the 11 million Ohioans that count on us. As we turn our focus to the state budget over the next few months, I will urge my colleagues to prioritize spending that creates jobs to ensure a strong economy, quality public education, while protecting the health and well-being of all Ohioans.

State Representative Nickia J. Antonio

Senator Skindell Earns Key Committee Assignments

by Michael Skindell

On January 1st, State Senator Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood) was appointed to five key standing committees by Senate leadership, including being named as Ranking Member on the important Senate Finance Committee. The Senate Finance Committee plays a central role in the adoption of the State’s Biennial Operating Budget, as well as the Mid-Biennium Review and the Capital Budget.

“I am truly honored by this appointment and grateful for the confidence Senator Schiavoni and my Democratic colleagues have placed in me,” Senator Skindell said. “I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Operating Budget and other state funding issues.”

This will be the third session in which Senator Skindell will be the Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee. Skindell previously served as Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee in the 129th and 131st General Assemblies. As Ranking Member on the Finance Committee, Senator Skindell works to ensure that a fair shot is provided to allow working families to be successful in our economy, students to achieve a quality education and senior citizens to have a meaningful retirement.

In addition, Senator Skindell will serve on the Senate Agriculture, Judiciary, Energy & Natural Resources, and Government Oversight committees. These committees will touch on public policy important to many aspects of the state of Ohio.

State Representative Nickia J. Antonio

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Lakewood Public Library

Lakewood Public Library Calendar Of Events
compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, February 8
Literature Series - “A Fort of Nine Towers: An Afghan Family Story”
Quiz Aibat Omar, a young Afghan writer, born in 1982 writes a riveting memoir of his family's experiences during the Soviet occupation of the Afghani culture. This program from the Cleveland Museum of Art explores the relationship between building form and function by focusing on three Cleveland-area historic houses of worship: Saint Theodosius, a Russian Orthodox Church; Temple Tifereth Israel, a synagogue; and the Kirtland Temple, a 19th-century Community of Christ (Latter Day Saints) Church. The third part of our Literature Series led by Barbara Parr, an instructor with Case Western Reserve University's Laura and Alvin Segal Lifelong Learning Program. Please Register in advance at www.lifelonglearning.cleveland.org, or by calling the Library at (216) 226-8275.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Thursday, February 9
Author Event - “How to Overcome Heartbreak: Recovering from Misguided Love” by Nicole D. Miller
Have you found yourself nursing a broken heart? Do you wonder when the pain will end?
Miller shares her own story about her own heartbreak, the events that led to it, and how she successfully overcame heartbreak and created a new and healthier life for herself. She gives the reader tips on healing and growing spiritually as well as emotionally. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, February 11
Film - “All the President’s Men” (1976)
On June 17, 1972, security guard Frank Wills was making his rounds at the Watergate Complex when he found a door that was kept unlocked with duct tape. The events that folled kept the country on edge for a little over two years, culminating in the resignation of President Nixon on August 9, 1974. Terry Meenan concludes his series on “Politics and the Movies,” introducing each film with rare clips and original documentaries, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, February 12
Concert - Danielle and Brian
Take a trip with Diane and Brian—soprano, guitar duo—and discover the beauties of life and love with songs from Europe and the Americas. Brian's classical guitar style fits well with Diane's love of folksongs and languages, and their program offers a beautiful sampling of music from England, Spain, Italy, Haiti, Brazil and North America.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Wednesday, February 15
Literature Series - “A Fort of Nine Towers: An Afghan Family Story”
The current series, led by Barbara Parr, an instructor with Case Western Reserve University's Laura and Alvin Segal Lifelong Learning Program. Please Register in advance at www.lifelonglearning.cleveland.org, or by calling the Library at (216) 226-8275.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, February 15
Distance Learning - Form, Function, and Faith
Presented by Cleveland Museum of Art
This program from the Cleveland Museum of Art explores the relationship between building form and function by focusing on three Cleveland-area historic houses of worship: Saint Theodosius, a Russian Orthodox Church; Temple Tifereth Israel, a synagogue; and the Kirtland Temple, a 19th-century Community of Christ (Latter Day Saints) Church.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, February 16
Talk - Judaism and … the Environment
Presented by Rabbi Enid Lader
On our concerns about climate change, clean water and environmental health.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday February 16
Booked For Murder: A Who's Who of Mystery Novels
Thursday, February 16
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Saturday, February 18
Film - “Gaslight” (1944)
A famous diva is killed in her own home and the valuable collection of jewelry she owned—six finger holes and one thumb hole—nine segments and a bashpare. Come and enjoy the sounds of this ancient instrument as the Turkish Cultural Center hosts a ney player, or sound maker, who will give a presentation and performance.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, February 21
Performance - Ney Instrument
The ney instrument is one of the oldest forms of flute. The Turkish ney has seven holes—six finger holes and one thumb hole—nine segments and a bashpare. Come and enjoy the sounds of this ancient instrument as the Turkish Cultural Center hosts a ney player, or neyver, who will give a presentation and performance.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday February 21
Knit and Lit Book Club
Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Tonight we will discuss “Mamie Dobbs” by Jacqueline Winspear.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Children & Youth Events
compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, February 11
Tail Waggin' Tutors
For school-age children
Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room

Saturday, February 11
Sew Your Own Library Tote
For anyone age 8 and up
Create your own unique and stylish tote bag in this hands-on, no experience necessary craft program. Registration required.
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Homework Room.

Sunday, February 12
Sensory Story Time
For you and your 3-7 year old child
This story time program can be enjoyed by all children, but it is specifically designed for young children with special needs, autism or those with sensory processing challenges. Registration required.
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Main Library Toddler Story Room.

Saturday, February 18
Mr. Alex's Magic Show
For the whole family
Witness an amazing display of tricks and illusions in this dazzling performance. Free and open to the public. No registration required.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room.

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Lifelong Learning Program. Please Register in advance at www.lifelonglearningcleveland.org, or by calling the Library at (216) 226-8275.

Mr. Alex's Magic Show

Tail Waggin' Tutors

Sew Your Own Library Tote

Sensory Story Time

Mr. Alex's Magic Show

Children & Youth Events

Saturday, February 11

Saturday, February 11

Saturday, February 18

Sensory Story Time

Saturday, February 18

Mr. Alex's Magic Show
by Amy Klass

A cultural center opened on Madison Avenue in Lakewood in 2012 with a mission to promote interaction and understanding between Turkish and American culture. The Turkish American Society of Ohio continues that mission with two programs at the Lakewood Public Library in February.

On Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m., enjoy a performance by a musician who plays one of the oldest forms of the flute, the ney. Neys, along with the tanbur lute and kemenche fiddle, are the most common instruments in Turkish classical music. A ney player, or neyzen, will give a presentation and performance with this ancient instrument in the Main Library Auditorium.

The following Tuesday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m., Murat Gurer, executive director of the Turkish American Society of Ohio, will discuss the Call to Prayer, which rings out five times per day, every day in Turkey, calling Muslims for mandatory worship. Recited in Arabic, the call is both a summons to ritual prayer and a summary of basic Islamic beliefs. Although disagreement may exist on the exact origin of the call, the story most often told is that the first to recite it was a freed slave chosen by Muhammad for his powerful and beautiful voice. Join Gurer in the Main Library Auditorium for a discussion of this integral part of the Muslim faith.

Library Presents Two Part Series:

Judaism And …

by Elaine Rosenberger

Lakewood Public Library presents a two-part series on Judaism and its relevance to ongoing concerns in our lives.

The first program, Judaism and the Environment, takes place on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. What does the ancient religion of Judaism have to say about protecting the environment? We will consider the concepts of bal tashchit (“do not destroy”) and l’vadah ul’ shamrah (“to till and to tend”).

The second program, Judaism and Particularism and Universalism, takes place on Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium and will consider the balance between particularism and universalism through the lens of the Siddur, a Jewish prayer book. Both programs will be led by Rabbi Enid Lader, the Rabbi of Beth Israel – The West Temple. Admission is free and open to all.

Mr. Alex’s Magic Show

by Marge Foley

Abracadabra! Hocus pocus! Alakazam! Witness an amazing display of tricks and illusions and be dazzled by this performance when Lakewood Public Library presents Mr. Alex’s Magic Show. Children and their families are invited to join in the magical fun as Mr. Alex executes fascinating tricks and amazing illusions. Classic magic fills this child friendly presentation that will be a delight for all ages. These mystical maneuvers will take place on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library First Floor Multipurpose Room, which is located in Children’s and Youth Services. This show is free and open to the public and no registration is required. For details about other youth programs at the Lakewood Public Library, please call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth.

Mr. Alex’s Magic Show

Come join us for a community education presentation:

How to Live Better... And Longer!

Wednesday, February 15 * 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Presentation in the Assisted Living Building
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | Complimentary lunch provided.
To attend this event, RSVP by calling (216) 912-0800 by Feb. 13.

Presented by Marcello Mellino, MD, FACC
President, WestSide Cardiac Consultants
Director of Cardiovascular Services, O’Neill Healthcare

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Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
Middle Schools Earn Sandy Hook Award

by Christine Gordillo

Garfield and Harding Middle Schools have earned a runner-up award from the Sandy Hook Promise organization for their participation in Say Something Call-to-Action Week in October. The schools won in the Student Spirit, Creativity and Sustainability category. The two schools will split the $500 award to go toward sustaining Sandy Hook Promise activities in our schools. They will also receive a Say Something plaque, and a mention on SHP’s social media channels and related materials. The schools will host the Start with Hello Sandy Hook program in February.

Schools that won awards went above and beyond to incorporate the core values of Say Something into their school culture, as well as the community at large. During Say Something Week, students created posters, made a video for the morning announcements, and signed the pledges throughout the week. The students also represented Say Something Week by designating a day for the student population to wear green for the Sandy Hook Promise and blue for anti-bullying.

During Say Something week, there was continuous collaboration between both middle schools. “We wanted to keep the message consistent across the community of Lakewood and among all of our Lakewood students,” said Harding Assistant Principal Shane Sullivan.

Schools

District Lunch Menus Earn USDA Award

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations are due to the Lakewood City Schools’ Nutrition Services Department as all school buildings recently received the Bronze Award for the USDA’s HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchroom. Each school will be recognized nationally and awarded $500 for use in the cafeterias.

Assistant Supervisor of Nutrition Services/Dietitian Tammi Zavatchen worked one year on preparing the application for the award with the help of many District employees and Nutrition Services Supervisor/Dietitian Nancy Early.

The HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchroom is a voluntary certification initiative established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, to recognize schools that are creating healthier school environments through their promotion of nutritious meals, physical activity, and nutrition education.

Criteria for certification:
- All schools are enrolled as a Team Nutrition School
- All schools offer reimbursable school lunches that meet the USDA nutrition standards
- All schools participate in both the National School Program and the School Breakfast Program
- All schools offer reimbursable school lunches that demonstrate healthy menu planning practices and principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- All schools meet the Smart Snack in Schools Nutrition Standards
- District adopts and supports a Local School Wellness Policy
- All schools must be certified for the 6 Cents program
- All schools offer nutrition education, physical education and physical activity

This is one of a number of honors the Nutrition Services Department has earned in the last several years, including the Ohio Department of Education Stellar Award for Best Nutrition Practice, and the Cleveland Clinic’s Eat Right at School Menu award.

Lakewood City Schools believe that schools play an important role in helping to reduce childhood obesity through healthy eating patterns, regular physical activity and nutrition education.

Thinking Of An Activity, Look To The Recreation Winter Booklet

by Ralph Lundberg

Winter is here and we have plenty of things for you to do. There are some new and exciting class offerings this winter. Whether it is learning a new language like Spanish or the ancient art of Reiki, we have myriad choices to help meet everyone’s needs.

Want to learn how to play guitar? We have beginning and teen guitar classes. Need help fixing up your house and want to do it yourself? Try one of Jim Englers “Homework” classes. Or if you want to brush up or learn new computer skills we have quite a few choices to select from.

We have various programs for younger aged children. You can try our Shrimps 1, 2 or 3 swimming classes and see what fun it is with you and your little one. Or our Start Smart Sports program which helps teach your 3-6 year old the fundamentals of a number of different sports in a fun and educational way. Does your child love computers? Try one of our youth Gigalearn, LLC classes. Young Remnants is back with their elementary after school art program and if you would like to try gymnastics, we have a class for your little tumbler with our Tumble Bugs and Tiny Turners classes. With summer just around the corner, the summer camps are listed in the winter brochure to allow for early planning and registration.

We have a lot to offer this winter at the Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department. Take a look at our booklet or online at www.lakewoodrecreation.com to see what you can learn next.
Rangers Name New Head Football Coach

by Christine Gordillo

Tom Hannan, current assistant head coach at Garrettsville’s James A. Garfield High School, has been named the next head coach for the Lakewood High School varsity football team. Hannan, who is a licensed physical education teacher, was approved by the Board of Education at its February 6 meeting.

“It will be an honor and a privilege to be the next head coach of Lakewood High. I will do everything in my power to represent LHS and the community in a positive manner,” Hannan said. “I will hire a staff that are not only great teachers, but great role models.”

Hannan comes to Lakewood with an extensive coaching resume stretching over 35 years that includes 16 years as head coach at Crestwood High School in Mantua, where he earned the most wins of any coach in school history and twice earned Akron Touchdown Club Coach of the Year honors. After his lengthy tenure at Crestwood, Hannan, who is a graduate of Mount Union College, held a variety of football coaching positions including offensive line coach at North Olmsted High School, head football coach at Ridgedale High School in Morral, Ohio, and assistant head coach at Cuyahoga Falls High School.

“We are excited to bring someone in who has a lot of experience in developing a program from our youth on up,” said Superintendent Jeff Patterson. “Tom has come highly recommended by everyone we spoke with.”

Added Athletic Director Sean Jackson: “Coach Hannan has the experience, time and a plan to move our football program in the right direction. I am extremely excited for our football players!”

Hannan said his years of head coaching experience have helped him develop a philosophy that focuses on academics, work ethic, discipline, organization, positive attitude and accountability, and building lifelong relationships and memories. “I want these four years to be among the players’ best memories of their life,” he said.

Public Gets First Glimpse Of LHS Academic Wing

The brand new academic wing at LHS includes state of the art technologies such as those seen in the science classroom above.

LHS continues to stand out among the region’s public schools thanks to its diverse academic offerings, including options like "Electronics."

Reflections Ceremony Celebrates Student Creativity

continued from page 1

Each school with a PTA can send up to 24 entries to the district level judging. Among works chosen for district-level recognition, the highest scoring 28 works as deemed by a panel of judges evaluating on artistic merit, creativity and interpretation of the theme, move on to Columbus to compete with students’ work from around the state.

The following students’ work will move on to statewide judging:

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA
Virginia Lindberg

Grant
Sean Miller
Grace Bratko
Joanna Wright

Lincoln
Ronan Barley
Jaelyn Bennett
Viviana Crino
Chris Cuccia
Paige Nappi

Roosevelt
Emily Potoczak
Meghan Walcheck

Garfield
Julia Wentlake

Harding
Mitch Bjorn
Alexandra Horton
Julia Kucek
Belle Orlando
Keller Shertofski
Anastasia Seekers
Inga Wilhelmy
Kyla Wright

Lakewood High
Garrett Bodnar
Clare Cielli
Victoria Gregg
Sara McMullen
Jessica Paul
Amelia Richardson
Laila Umble
Julia Wozniakowski

Congratulations to all our talented artists and to the hard-working Reflections Committee members.
Lakewood Athletic Boosters

Annual Night At The Races
by Ann Schwarz

The Lakewood Athletic Boosters are holding their 13th annual Night at the Races fundraiser on March 4, 2017 at St. Mary Banquet Hall 3236 Warren Road Cleveland, Ohio. This fun event helps raise funds for Lakewood High and Middle School Sports.

The Night at the Races event is from 6-11:30 p.m. with the races starting at 7:30 p.m. Geiger's, Sile Heating and Cooling, KB Confections, Italian Creations, Ross’s Deli, and Panera Bread are among the local businesses that are sponsoring or donating and supplying food and beer for this event. People may bring their own food and beverages to enjoy, as well. This event is for people 21 and over. No tickets will be sold at the door and tickets must be presented for admission. People are encouraged to visit the Lakewood AthleticBoosters.org website to order tickets and horses.

In addition to Raffle Baskets filled with donated items from area businesses and Side Boards, Night at the Races will have some big auction items - a jewelry piece from Broestl & Wallis, electronics, a signed NFL jersey, and Cavaliers, and Indians items. Businesses can purchase ads for the Race Form booklet. There will also be an opportunity to purchase $25 raffle tickets for a chance to win a 2 year lease for a 2017 Buick Encore from Steve Barry Buick (tax and title included) or $10,000 cash option. The Car Raffle winner will be randomly selected on March 14, 2017 at the Winter Sports Awards at the Civic Auditorium at 6:00 pm (Winner need not be present). Only 2,000 Car Raffle tickets will be sold. People can access information about purchasing tickets for Night at the Races, the Car Raffle, Sponsorship, or Advertisement placement at the Lakewood Athletic Boosters website: LakewoodAthleticBoosters.org.

The Lakewood Athletic Boosters was founded in 1988 as a Non-Profit organization. It was to support and promote Lakewood High and Middle School Sports, to lend moral backing to the coaches and teams and to assist school athletic endeavors.

Every year, the Lakewood Athletic Boosters donates $60,000-$70,000 to the Lakewood Schools Athletic Department to help subsidize their annual budget. The purchase of new uniforms, equipment, and materials has allowed the Student Athletes to enjoy a positive and memorable experience with school sports. 8-10 Scholarships in the amount of $500 each are awarded every year to deserving graduating seniors. Recently, the Athletic Boosters have donated extra funds for the new timing board at the High School Pool, new wrestling mats, an IPad for Boys Basketball, and spin bikes. The Pay-to-Play fee for Lakewood High and Middle School sports is one of the lowest in the area at $75 per sport. In many other School districts, Pay to Participate fees can run as high as $600 per sport for each athlete. Volunteers for the Athletic Boosters can earn credit and reduce their Pay-to-Play fee even further by volunteering for the Boosters at the Concession stands, Night at the Races, or the Ranger Shop. Since its inception, the Lakewood Athletic Boosters have donated over a million dollars back to Lakewood City Schools Athletic Department.

Lakewood Soccer Association: Saturday Soccer Spring 2017 Registration
by John Huete

The registration deadline is coming up soon for the spring season of Lakewood Soccer Association’s (LSA) Saturday Soccer program.

The deadline is Sunday, February 28. Registration cost is $50 for the spring season. LSA still will take registrations after the February 28 deadline, but they are subject to a $20 late fee.

There are a few ways to sign up. Visit the “Saturday” page of LSA’s website, www.lakewood-soccer.com, and you can sign up with a credit card online. You also can print a registration form from the website and mail it to us, or you can stop at the Madison branch of the Lakewood Public Library from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 11 and 25 to register in person. (Payments at the in-person registration must be made by check or cash.)

LSA’s eight-week season of games starts Saturday, March 25th. Games are played at Memorial Field in the Metroparks on Saturday mornings at four time slots: 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon.

Schedules are posted on the website about a week before the season begins.

Registration is open to players age 4-14. Nearly 600 kids of all ability levels played on 45 co-ed teams, coached by parent volunteers, during the fall season. LSA has run a recreational soccer program for more than 30 years.

For those who register for the spring season, team assignments will be emailed to them during the week of March 13. Team practices and league-wide footskills – U05 and U06 FUNDamentals with Coach Joe Ialian, and U07-U14 footskills with Coach Mirsad Curri & Coach Andrei Plop – will begin the week of March 20th.

If you have questions, please visit www.lakewood-soccer.com.

Swimmers Snag Conference Titles At Champs Meet
by Christine Cordillo

A trio of Lakewood High swimmers can now call themselves Southwest Conference champions! Congratulations to seniors Evan Gainous, Preston Polen and Kelsey Reis. Reis set a pool and meet record en route to a win in the 100 backstroke and she also topped the field in 100 butterfly at the conference championship meet held January 28 as Westlake Recreation Center. Polen defended his title in the 100 butterfly and Gainous won the 100 backstroke. The 400 free relay of Polen, Gainous junior Colman McGuan and senior Nick Ferrone were also champs. The Rangers also had a number of swimmers as SWC runners-up: Evan Gainous in the 100 fly, Colman McGuan in the 200 IM, Nick Ferrone in the 200 freestyle and the boys’ 200 free relay of Polen, Gainous, McGuan and Ferrone. On the diving side, senior Elizabeth Pearlman finished in third place. The boys’ team rallied for a third place finish overall after being in seventh after the diving competition on January 27. The girls’ team finished in fifth place. Congratulations to all the swimmers, divers and coaches!
**LakewoodAlive Announces Entertainment For Lumberjack Bash**

**Live Music by Lost State of Franklin Headlines Full Slate of Lumberjack Fun**

by Matt Bixenstine

Despite their reputation for undertaking grueling and dangerous work, lumberjacks still know how to have fun. Need proof? Simply attend Loving Lakewood: Lumberjack Bash.

Presented by Geiger’s, the Lumberjack Bash serves as a fundraiser for LakewoodAlive. All lumberjacks and jills are cordially invited to don their best plaid and attend the Bash on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at The Bottlehouse Brewery Lakewood.

LakewoodAlive announces a full slate of entertainment options for the Lumberjack Bash to ensure guests enjoy a log-splitting good time. Cleveland-based band Lost State of Franklin will entice the plaid-clad audience to dance their axes off by performing a brand of music blending elements of folk, bluegrass and country to create a sound that’s pure Americana.

Guests at the Lumberjack Bash can also sink their saws into the following entertainment options:
- A live wood-carving demonstration
- The Epic Beard Contest presented by Men’s Cuts
- A “Head in the Hole” Lumberjack selfie station
- Hammerschlagen — A unique game involving a hammer, nails and a stump
- A speed-building Lincoln Log contest
- For more information regarding the Lumberjack Bash, please visit LakewoodAlive.org.

Loving Lakewood: Lumberjack Bash is generously supported by the following sponsors: Geiger’s (Title Sponsor), Cleveland Property Management Group and First Federal Lakewood (Platinum Sponsors), Cleveland Home Title and M.V.P. Valet Parking (Gold Sponsors), Men’s Cuts (Presenting Sponsor for the Epic Beard Contest), Clark Wealth Management, Cleveland Lumber Company, Erie Design, King’s Kitchen, Lanter Legal, Lion and Blue, Moore Yourkivich & Dibo, Plantation Home, Relief Properties, Ride + Workout and Scalish Construction (Silver Sponsors).

**New Chapel Blessing And Memorial Service**

by Tammy Silvert

On January 30, O’Neill Healthcare Lakewood held a memorial service in their new Assisted Living chapel. The ceremony was opened with a blessing of the new chapel by Father Dennis Hrubak of the Byzantine Catholic Church in Parma and son of assisted living resident, Irene Hrubak.

Father Dennis (pictured at right) generously donated a beautiful icon of the Virgin Mary. The blessing was followed by a memorial service led by Julie Greer of O’Neill Healthcare Hospice, and the service ended with refreshments and sharing memories of lost loved ones. Thank you to all who attended for your support!

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**Lakewood Cares**

**LakewoodAlive Thanks Volunteers With Annual Appreciation Breakfast**

by Matt Bixenstine

As the saying goes, it takes a village. This is especially true in the case of LakewoodAlive, a volunteer-driven organization that relies heavily on community members to help fulfill its mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods.

LakewoodAlive hosted its Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast to honor the many community members who contribute their time and talents each year.

**Outgoing LakewoodAlive Board Members**

- James Crawford
- Sean McDermott
- Shannan Ritchie
- Dru Siley
- Rolly Standish

**Housing Outreach Program**

- LHHS Freshman Football Team Lean In Recovery Center
- James “JP” Ptacek
- St. Edward High School
- Lakewood Summer Meltdown
- JP Kraniz
- Lori Ulbricks

**Lakewood Wine & Craft Beer Festival**

- Michael Bentley
- Spooky Pooch Parade
- Greg Wereb

**Light Up Lakewood**

- Lisa Cimino
- Glenn Palmer & Derek Palmer
- Judy Szentkiralyi

“Above & Beyond” Awards were presented to Bryan Evans and Chris Vance for their excellence in service to LakewoodAlive. Bryan contributes to LakewoodAlive in numerous ways, including serving on the Board of the Directors, chairing the Marketing Committee and volunteering during community events. Chris, owner of Vance Music Studios in Lakewood, plays a key role with helping LakewoodAlive secure live entertainment for various community events, including the 12-week Front Porch Concert Series each summer.

A special award is bestowed each year to a volunteer who demonstrates uniquely exceptional commitment to LakewoodAlive. This year’s Laskey Service Award recipient is Bob Donaldson. Rob, a LakewoodAlive Board Member, has proven instrumental in furthering the organization’s urban design initiatives. In addition to chairing LakewoodAlive’s Design Committee, Rob recently spearheaded an effort to enhance the Historic Curtis Block Building with window displays and has taken a lead role in planning Warren Road streetscape improvements along with the development and implementation of a bench and trash receptacle program. Rob routinely donates his design expertise, and for that LakewoodAlive is extremely grateful.

“We can’t begin to express our gratitude for the incredible outstanding of support we receive from our family of dedicated volunteers,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director for LakewoodAlive. “Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do for Lakewood, and for helping us fulfill our mission to foster and sustain vibrant neighborhoods.”
Ready? Okay! Beck Center Presents “Bring It On” Regional Premiere

by Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to present the regional premiere of “Bring It On The Musical,” the sixth annual collaboration with the esteemed Baldwin Wallace University Music Theatre Program. This limited engagement runs February 10 through 26, 2017 in the Mackey Theater. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Two Thursday performances will take place at 8 p.m. on February 16 and 23. Tickets are now on sale. Buy early and save with promo code: CHEER to receive $5 off each adult/senior ticket purchased by February 9.

This movie–based–musical comes from Lin–Manuel Miranda and Tom Kitt, creators of the Broadway sensations “Hamilton” and “Next to Normal.” Nominated for two Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, this story takes audiences on a high–flying journey filled with an incredible score by the world’s most celebrated contemporary composers. Their energetic rock and hip–hop infused musical numbers represent two squads with one mission: the National Cheerleading Championship title.

Beck Center is pleased to welcome Director Will Brandstetter, who comes straight off the Broadway engagement of “Atonal Brown Live: Eat Your Science” and the Toronto engagement of “The Illusionists: Live from Broadway.” A graduate of Baldwin Wallace University Music Theatre program, he now directs a talented ensemble of 32 BWMT students alongside Music Director Peter van Reesema and Choreographer Martin Cespedes. “I am really looking forward to returning to Cleveland and working with current BW students,” remarked Brandstetter. “It is also exciting to be collaborating with fellow alumni, including Cheer Coach Mary Sheridan. We are ready to bring it!”

Victoria Bussert, the acclaimed Director of Music Theatre at Baldwin Wallace University, will serve as Production Supervisor. She is joined by Music Supervisor David Pepin, the original Music Director of Broadway’s “Bring It On.” Tickets are $31 for adults, $27 for seniors (65 and older), and $12 for students with a valid ID. A $3 service fee per ticket will be applied at time of purchase. Purchase Night on Thursday, February 9 is $10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of four or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

This production of “Bring It On The Musical” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). It is generously sponsored by the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.
Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 42

by Buzz Kompier

Obligatory Disclaimer: Record reviews are a tricky business. It's one thing to enjoy music, but to like, pick out what you like about it? That being said, if I review your thing and I didn't like something, don't feel too bad. My opinion doesn't matter all that much.

Cloud Nothings - Learn My Life - Carpark Records - 2 songs - 7"

Cloud Nothings' 7"s have always been kinda spotty for me. I was very pleased to listening to this one, however, that both sides on it are quite good. "Learn My Life" is a great acoustic indie rock/pop tune, with just Dylan Baldi on acoustic guitar. If you've missed it with Cloud Nothings more extravagantly produced full-lengths, Dylan is quite a good songwriter, singer, and guitarist, which is on full display here with everything else stripped away. I like the part where he sings falsetto also. Nice touch. The flip side, "Sight Unseen (for Love)," is another lo-fi acoustic one, though this time with bass and two guitars. I'm not sure whether fellow CN members TJ Duke and Chris Brown play on it or it's just Dylan (I'm inclined to believe the latter, but feel free to write in and tell me how stupid I am if you think otherwise), either way it's another great melancholy pop tune. I'd love to hear more Cloud Nothings/Dylan Baldi recordings like this, with just Dylan, acoustic and simple. Highly recommended, and you get to take a nice trip out of state if you want one (see below)!

Carpark Records - 2 songs - 7"

4.8/5

This one is a little bit of a mixed bag. The A-side has some cool moments here and there, "Get Off My Wavelength," "Luxury Condominium," and "Ignore The Signs" are nice and creepy, too—though I will add that I think "Strange Year" is my least favorite on the album, tied with "Up To The Surface." That should mean nothing (cloud nothing) to you, though. The record ends with "Really My Fate," which finally brings out the fans of earlier tunes like "Wasted Days" and "Patern Walks" were hoping for, though it does it in a much slower tempo than either of those two songs, which is an interesting change. Overall, a decent album. It's one of those ones that takes a good few listens to grow on you, and I don't think it's as good as "Here & Nowhere Else" or "Attack On Memory," but it's still quite worth checking out. Did Dylan's voice get deeper again or am I finally losing it for him? Regardless of that, it's a very catchy pop tune. Also, Mr. Calhoun has proved to me that it was quite a good effort (superdreamerrecords.com or heelturnrecords.com, whichever floats your boat). I'm inclined to believe the latter, but feel free to write in and tell me how stupid I am if you think otherwise), either way it's another great melancholy pop tune. I'd love to hear more Cloud Nothings/Dylan Baldi recordings like this, with just Dylan, acoustic and simple. Highly recommended, and you get to take a nice trip out of state if you want one (see below)!

High School Sports Roundup

continued from page 1

game with Cleveland JFK. Lakewood goalie Rob Holden and Kevin Calhoun contributed 13 points, 8 of those two songs, which is an interesting change. Overall, a decent album. It's one of those ones that takes a good few listens to grow on you, and I don't think it's as good as "Here & Nowhere Else" or "Attack On Memory," but it's still quite worth checking out. Did Dylan's voice get deeper again or am I finally losing it for him? Regardless of that, it's a very catchy pop tune. Also, Mr. Calhoun has proved to me that it was quite a good effort (superdreamerrecords.com or heelturnrecords.com, whichever floats your boat). I'm inclined to believe the latter, but feel free to write in and tell me how stupid I am if you think otherwise), either way it's another great melancholy pop tune. I'd love to hear more Cloud Nothings/Dylan Baldi recordings like this, with just Dylan, acoustic and simple. Highly recommended, and you get to take a nice trip out of state if you want one (see below)!

4.8/5

This one is a little bit of a mixed bag. The A-side has some cool moments here and there, "Get Off My Wavelength," "Luxury Condominium," and "Ignore The Signs" especially, but Side B is more consistently something. Day Creeper play pretty straightforward catchy garage/indie rock with solid memories. I like that due to the super-tuff drumming style, some of these songs ("Makehift Maker" stands out) have a rock strut to them even when they're more of a ballady type. An interesting choice indeed. I can't quite say that the songwriting holds up over a whole full-length, but the good parts are pretty darn good. I also have a soft spot for this group because something about their singer's vocal style reminds me of Doug Eniker. Not bad stuff. A thoroughly decent affair.

RANGER NOTES

The LHS boys hockey teams returns from a three game road trip on Friday night when they face Westlake at Harding Middle School. Then they face
Lakewood Taxpayers Fight Back Against Lakewood City Council’s $1.8 Million Illegal Ordinances

Cite Ordinances Impact On Our Pocketbooks, The Environment and Our Economy

by Gabriela Kaplan

LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL FUNDS $1.8 MILLION PROJECT FOR CLIFF EROSION THAT WILL NOT PREVENT CLIFF COLLAPSE

In the summer of 2016, the City of Lakewood passed Ordinance (25-16) with a cost above $700,000 for the Meridian Condo’s shore cliff “erosion protection.” It did this without owner votes and in spite of over 54 owners’ signed objections. These owners brought to City Council top international geotechnical shoreline expert, Dr. R. Young, who during open council, advised that a shoreline cliff project is not indicated at this time and its design will not prevent potential collapse of its cliff (video A, B). City Council ignored him, ignored the condo’s hired engineer (Lewin and Asso. firm) as well as top experts’ correspondence who concurred with Dr. Young (C).

In January 2017, the City of Lakewood passed another Ordinance. This, for over $1,100,000. Ordinance (57-16) for “shoreline/ cliff protection” for the Winton Place condo which is next door to the Meridian (the cliff is shared by these adjoining condos). LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL AND MERIDIAN CONDO BOARD ARE IN VIOLATION OF CITY, STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS

Owners who oppose the cliff project hired top Cleveland attorney, Majeed Makhlouf, ex-Law Director of the Lake County Bar, who put condo boards, ODNR (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) State officials and City Council on legal notice that they were violating condo, municipal, state and federal laws and ignoring multiple experts’ advice (D). Officials, Boards and City Council ignored these. LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL AND WINTON PLACE CONDO BOARD ARE IN VIOLATION OF CITY, STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS

They used the same tactics used for the Meridian Condo, ignoring the same legal and engineering experts. Attorney Majeed Makhlouf legal notice to them, too, was ignored.

The Ohio Constitution requires the obtaining of 100% of the Owners’ votes in order for the City to activate a bond for such projects, if not, the municipality must pay for same and appropriate the property under eminent domain (D). (1) The ordinances to finance these projects violate the Ohio Constitution, because it fords the City from lending to a private association. (2) The Board is not allowed to borrow for the project from the City. (4) Owners are required to sign for new projects or improvements with prices above $25,000. The wall and revetment are “improvements” not maintenance projects, because now a wall or revetment were there to “maintain.” Thus demanding funds for these, without a passing Owners’ 100% approval vote, violates Ohio law. (7) As an alternative, should the Board choose, it must obtain votes from 65% of the Owners for such projects, the Board can fund the project from its coffers, demand direct assessment to the Owners or follow through from a bank but not from the municipality.

In order to stop the ordinances, owners would have to file a lawsuit. Litigation takes years and would devalue the City of Lakewood’s bond rating. Banks won’t lend to owners or to buyers of properties who are in litigation, so property values drop, thus a lawsuit has not been filed to date. “VOTE” WAS NOT VALID, TACTICS ARE COERCIVE AND ILLEGAL

For a vote to be valid, the vote must be cast on a given date, time and verified by an accounting firm’s witnesses. Since only about 65% of owners signed a flyer, and sent it after several weeks, and many signed because we were told we had no right to vote, that all we had to do was approve the flyer, which is a lie, the City of Lakewood violated the law by approving these as signatures. The law requires 100% of owners’ signatures for such ordinances. With over $1.8M the City of Lakewood’s ordinance obligated us to comply, or owners who did not sign would eventually have a lien on their individual condo. We were told that owners who didn’t sign would have to pay all of our obligation within 30 days after the completion of the project. However, owners who signed were given twenty years to pay. I am convinced we would have never gotten even the 65% signatures for such coercive and illegal tactics were not used.

WHY DID THIS TAKE PLACE THEN?

I suspect there are $1.8 Million reasons for the interested parties to push these ordinances. This because, to place drain tiles, shurbbery and trees on the top of the cliffs to protect against erosion and collapse as was recommended by the experts, at a fraction of the cost, is not lucrative. I suspect that many other shoreline properties will have the same fate, now that the City of Lakewood has perfected this ordinance system. CLIFF AND SHORELINE EROSION “PROTECTING STRUCTURES” WOULD CAUSE EROSION ON CLIFTON BEACH, ROCKY RIVER’S BEACH, HUNTINGTON AND EDGEBWATER PARKS ETC.

The Great Lakes’ increasing algae bloom, cyanobacteria and pollution are due to population growth, human pollution and global warming. There is one more factor for water pollution: shoreline protecting structures, like the ones imposed in the city’s regulations and Bylaws. Owners who oppose these armored walls destroy the shore’s ability to naturally cleanse the water, its marshes, destroy wildlife’s nesting and fishing/ hunting habitats. These “protection” cause erosion on abridgments, marshes and structures up to ten miles from either side (E). Many lawsuits have been filed due to the destruction these cause. Due to the growing number of these “protections,” Edgewater Park will disappear in short order, unless its sand is re-seeded, which is costly. To date, the Winton condo has spent over $1.5 Million in replenishing its revetment in turn is causing erosion of the neighboring cliffs/beaches. This dominio effect from more seawalls causes more erosion of cliffs/beaches down stream and a deterioration of water quality.

OTHER STATES HAVE BANNED THESE STRUCTURES

Because of the destructive nature of these armored walls, about a dozen states have banned these, while others have strict permits for shore erosion protection. Ohio’s water sports and fishing are multi-billion dollar industries. ODNR, Ohio officials, City Council and our Mayor boast that they “care for the environment.” In this instance, they prove they don’t. To ruin our environment and our economy with ill-advised projects like these because experts and laws were ignored, is unconscionable.

Gabriela Kaplan, MD, is a Unit owner who is fighting the City, and奇异 owners of Winton and Meridian condos, in Lakewood, Ohio, (A) Video from 32:00 minutes to 38:37 minutes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IVRsemmZpE

(B) News Article: http://www.cleveland.com/lakewood/index.ssf/2016/05/lakewood_city_council_weighs_cliff.html

(C) Engineers: Bob Holt, Orin Pilkey, Walter Cramton etc

(D) I. Ohio R.C. 3311:04(A)

2. Article VIII, Section 6, of the Ohio Constitution; see, e.g., C.V.L.C. Group, v. City of Warren, 2000 Ohio 265, 88 Ohio St. 3d 37, and State ex rel. Ryan v. City Council of Gahanna (1984), 9 Ohio St. 3d 126.

3. Article VIII, Sections 13 and 16, respectively, of the Ohio Constitution.

4. See Decl., Art. III, Section 9(D).

5. See Decl., Art. III, Section 5(G), which requires such written confirmation.

6. Bylaw, Art. VIII, Sec. 3. Indeed, the Bylaws clearly distinguish between “capial additions, alterations and improvements,” on the one hand, and “maintenance, repair or replacement” on the other hand.

7. See Haller v. Hickory Creek Home Owners Assn., 2001-Ohio-4032 (1st Dist.), (“This court has held that a trial court’s adoption of definitions for the terms ‘improvement,’ ‘alteration,’ and ‘maintenance’ was reasonable where the trial court had found that an alteration ordinance compelled a change of use from one form or state to another, whereas maintenance contemplates the restoration of a thing to its original condition.”) Here, obviously, the “installation of a new seawall, which did exist previously, was an improvement,” as that term is ordinarily used. fn. 11 Behm v. Victory Lane Unit Owners’ Assn., Inc. (1999), 133 Ohio App. 3d 484, 782 N.E.2d 1093, (Emphasis added.)


(E) www.beachapedia.org

Shorewalls, groins, jetties and other shoreline stabilization structures have had tremendous impacts on our nation’s beaches. Shoreline structures are built to alter... (F) FOX 6 Law Suits due to shore erosion from these...

http://fox6now.com/2013/07/24/neighbors-sue-concordia-over-bluff-damage/

Diversity Potluck - A Slam Dunk For Lakewood!

continued from page 1 on the commission is voluntary and contingent upon appointment by the mayor and city.

Bernadette Elston is a member of the city of Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission and an almost ten year resident of the wonderful city of Lakewood. Her interest in housing as an Observer is directly related to her responsibilities on the commission.

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com
Lakewoodites Voice Their Support At Pro-Refugee, Pro-Immigrant Rallies

Since the travel ban Executive Order was issued by the Trump Administration, rallies in support of refugee and immigrant communities (and against the travel ban) have swept the nation. As a community with strong immigrant roots that continues to be a haven for many refugees and immigrants today, Lakewoodites showed up and shared their experiences with the LO at two of the most prominent rallies. Immediately above and below - at Cleveland Hopkins Airport and starting on W. 25th Street winding through downtown to outside the Federal Court House.

Gun Control In Ohio
by Michael Lauer

As an advocate for domestic violence awareness and prevention, I want to acknowledge all of the dedicated, bipartisan legislative accomplishments that our Ohio Congressman and Senators have done and continue to do to help prevent gun violence in our communities. In 2016, Ohio enacted a law prohibiting violent career criminals from buying, possessing, or carrying a gun. Ohio also requires a firearm owner to report the loss or theft of any firearm in the person’s possession or under the person’s control.

Unfortunately, we still need an increase of bipartisan, legislative support on requiring background checks on private sales and the prohibiting of transfer or possession of assault weapons, 50 caliber rifles, or large capacity ammunition magazines. Please consider examining these other issues to help prevent gun violence in Ohio. We must never forget of the tragic event that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14, 2012.

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Old Schools
by John Vacha

Progress can often be a double-edged sword. Whenever new structures are raised in response to changing times, the old ones being replaced face neglect, destruction—or preservation and rehabilitation for new purposes.

As Lakewood’s school system nears completion of the most ambitious building program in its history, the community faces the question of disposing of two of its most historic but outgrown buildings. These are the red brick structures on the western block of Warren Road between Detroit Avenue and Hilliard Road, familiar to Lakewoodites as the Board of Education headquarters.

Thousands pass them daily with little idea of their role in the development of public education in Lakewood. Current plans to place the building up for sale could result in cutting the last visible links of the Lakewood Public Schools to the nineteenth century.

In 1879, the smaller of the two buildings was dedicated as East Rockport Central School. Designed by the Cleveland firm of Coburn and Barnum, it was built as a cost of $4,519 plus an extra $42 to engrave the school’s name above the central windows of the second story. It replaced a one-story building dating from the beginnings of Lakewood. Consequently the second of the two buildings on Warren Road was built in 1899 and opened as simply the High School.

Other civic buildings moved into the neighborhood. Between the schools and Detroit Avenue appeared a police station and fire department. A larger high school, known as Wilson School, was built on the eastern side of Warren Road. The old High School then became an elementary school, still remembered by some as Grant School. Although the police and fire departments, as well as Wilson School, all disappeared in favor of other locations, Grant School and the old East Rockport Central remained in their original location. An addition was built behind Grant School, only to disappear when a new Grant School was opened on Victoria Avenue.

That left the original Grant and East Rockport Central schools which, linked by a two-room cross over addition, have served for nearly half a century as the administrative headquarters of the Lakewood Board of Education and Recreation Department. The Board’s planned relocation from this site, however, leaves the future of its two oldest buildings in doubt.

It was the threatened destruction of Lakewood’s Oldest Stone House that led to the formation of the Lakewood Historical Society in 1952. Under the leadership of founder Margaret Manor Butler, the society headed an effort to preserve the Detroit Avenue structure by having it moved to its present location in Lakewood Park. Several decades later the society worked with the city to preserve Lakewood’s oldest wood frame building, the Richardson House, in its original Detroit Avenue location.

Since the 1960s the urban renewal movement has prompted the rise of the historic preservation initiative. Last year marked the fiftieth anniversary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, established by Congress to identify structures worthy of being saved for historical or aesthetic reasons.

Urban removal and historic preservation since then frequently engage in a tug-of-war that can go either way. It was won by the Christian Science Church in downtown Lakewood; it was lost by the Christian Science Church opposite Lakewood’s eastern border. It was lost by the commercial block at Highland and Detroit Avenues to a generic big-box drugstore; the Curtis Block next to the defunct Lakewood Hospital, on the other hand, has staved off destruction with its recent designation as a local historic landmark.

The future of the two old schools on Warren Road is the latest chapter in an old dilemma. Can a community adapt to changing times without sacrificing the characteristics which have made it unique?

NOTE: Much of the factual material in this article was derived from an account by Amanda Francazio in the fall 2016 newsletter of the Lakewood Historical Society.


**Lakewood Living**

**Extensive Progress With Kitchen, Bathrooms Draws Scenic Park House Closer To Completion**

by Matt Bixenstine

Winter tends to be a time for hibernation and relative inactivity, but not for Dana Paul, builder of the spectacular new single-family home coming to fruition at 1427 Scenic Street in Lakewood.

Paul, a Lakewood resident and owner of Prairie Stone Group, the company spearheading this building project, has spent much of the last two months making strides towards bringing the 1,425 square foot home closer to being occupant-ready. Of late his meticulous efforts have focused on the home’s kitchen, two-and-a-half bathrooms, and exterior landscaping.

Once an antique brown stain had dried upon the downstairs level’s character hickory hardwood flooring, Paul installed kitchen cabinets featuring crown caps and quarter-sawn oak with a tight grain pattern. These details complement granite countertops and a 9-foot-long island that blends the spacious kitchen with an open-concept downstairs layout.

Meanwhile, on the upstairs level Paul equipped both full bathrooms with heated flooring. The master bedroom in the back of the house features an attached bathroom with marble tile floor and a sizable, walk-in shower.

The two levels are integrated by a large, six-panel window above the staircase offering both ample natural light and impressive views of the Rocky River Valley.

“For the most part the details of this home are really coming together as I envisioned,” said Paul. “There’s still plenty of work to be done, but I’m starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel.”

With cooperation from mild winter weather, Paul and his wife, Heidi, also recently set about finalizing the home’s exterior landscaping. They planted natural grasses, holly and a seven-foot ornamental tree in the front yard, while Paul laid sod within the backyard framed by a rock border.

“Rolling sod is pretty gratifying because it creates instant green amidst the grey of winter,” Paul said.

Paul’s next steps involve installing fixtures in the kitchen and bathrooms, as well as “trimming out” by adding trim around doors, windows and flooring throughout the three-bedroom house.

With assistance from the City of Lakewood and the Cuyahoga Land Bank, LakewoodAlive has sought to convert this previously-vacant lot in western Lakewood into a new, single-family home. The Scenic Park House Project remains on track to be completed this spring.

Matt Bixenstine is the Marketing & Development Manager for LakewoodAlive. He enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his basset hound through Madison Park.

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**Freshened Dressin’**

by Leah Fedor

I was highly critical when the new policy for LHS dress-code was released. To me it was just another set of rules. In 2015 a relatively informal protest was conducted by students after a school-wide conversation started about the dress-code, and what it was like from our perspectives. Some people had never had a bad experience with the dress-code, so they did not feel against it. On the other hand, those who have had bad experiences with the dress-code did have opposition for it.

This is a simple explanation of what occurred the first week of school back in 2015. But since we are talking about high schoolers, (people aged between 14 and 18) all in one building, (which was really 2 at the time) and are equipped with sarcastic and dramatic responses, not to mention digital commentary on the web; the school was in a state of petty debate.

The general guidelines are pretty specific which I was slightly weary of at the time. In fact, I didn't really feel any excitement until someone told me how great it was and that I should feel good about it. So I just took a second to think about the whole situation and how it had started back in freshman year. I had already had a pretty harsh opinion of the dress-code, and I wasn’t afraid to break the rules, although I never really saw there being any change while I was there.

Soon after the beginning of the school year, it was pretty clear that not only were the past rules unnecessary, but they also created a lot of unneeded stress between students and staff. I mean, what adult wants to look at a person and tell them their skirt is a few inches too high above their knee? There are significantly fewer people getting in trouble for the clothes they wear, which was once quite the distraction in someone’s day. Also quite ironic since back then the clothes were seen as being the distraction.
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